

HOUSE BILL 1420

O4, E3

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By: **Delegate Howard**

Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2010

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study the Supervision of Group Homes**

3 **PG 405-10**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Supervision of Group
5 Homes; providing for the membership, chair, and staffing of the Task Force;
6 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving compensation but
7 entitling members to certain reimbursement for certain expenses; requiring the
8 Task Force to study and make certain recommendations regarding the
9 supervision of residential child care programs; requiring the Task Force to
10 submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a
11 certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to
12 the Task Force to Study the Supervision of Group Homes.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That:

15 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Supervision of Group Homes.

16 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

17 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President
18 of the Senate;

19 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
20 the House;

21 (3) a representative of the State Department of Education, appointed
22 by the State Superintendent of Schools;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (4) a representative of the Department of Juvenile Services, appointed
2 by the Secretary of Juvenile Services;

3 (5) a representative of the Department of Human Resources,
4 appointed by the Secretary of Human Resources;

5 (6) a representative of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,
6 appointed by the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene;

7 (7) a representative of the Governor's Office for Children, appointed by
8 the Executive Director of the Governor's Office for Children; and

9 (8) the following members, appointed by the Governor:

10 (i) three representatives of local departments of social services,
11 of whom one each shall represent a rural, suburban, and urban area;

12 (ii) one certified program administrator of a residential child
13 care program;

14 (iii) two parents, or parent advocates, or one of each, nominated
15 by the child advocacy community; and

16 (iv) two representatives of a homeowners or civic association
17 that has a residential child care program located in the community served by the
18 association.

19 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

20 (d) The Department of Human Resources and the Department of Juvenile
21 Services shall provide staff for the Task Force.

22 (e) A member of the Task Force:

23 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

24 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
25 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

26 (f) The Task Force shall:

27 (1) study existing law and regulations that govern the operation of
28 residential child care programs; and

29 (2) make recommendations regarding:

30 (i) placing a limit on the number of residential child care
31 programs in a defined geographic area;

1 (ii) the number of staff required to effectively operate and
2 adequately supervise residents in a residential child care program;

3 (iii) standards for the operation of residential child care
4 programs;

5 (iv) the establishment of a residential child care program
6 oversight committee to monitor the quality and compliance of operating programs; and

7 (v) any other issue necessary for the safe and effective operation
8 of residential child care programs as determined by the Task Force.

9 (g) On or before December 31, 2010, the Task Force shall report its findings
10 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
11 Government Article, the General Assembly.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 July 1, 2010. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 months and, at the end of
14 December 31, 2010, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
15 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.